

STEVEN D. COOK

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Objective – By actively participating in the legal counseling process and contributing an “as applied” perspective to problem solving, improve both the physical and moral environment of the world in which we live.

I. Professional Skill Set

Defender of the Realm

- Established network of in-house and outside counsel in the EU and Australia to oversee environmental and product safety related legal issues.
- After receiving outside counsel advice as to the “worthless” nature of indemnity, successfully pursued claim against two large European chemical companies resulting in a €40+MM recovery for the company for historical contamination.
- Established and implemented unique advocacy and litigation strategy (including establishing a non-profit corporation, BCCA Appeal Group, as the litigation vehicle) to overturn agency decisions resulted in saving the client in excess of \$250MM while also improving air quality in Houston by having the state implementation plan shift focus to “spike” emissions.
- Executed a partially successful multi-jurisdictional litigation strategy to preserve market for product.
- Prepared and coordinated defense against enforcement actions from governmental agencies at the local and federal level in US and EU.

Truth Seeker/Truth Teller

- Involved in numerous investigations and delivered the sometimes unpleasant results to senior management. Revamped company compliance and ethics program, justified and oversaw creation of permanent staffing.
- Known as the “Angel of Darkness” due to the frequent “bad news” that is brought forward – yet they keep asking me back.

Puzzle-solver

- Preliminary engineering solution to address air quality concern required extensive capital and threatened economic viability of plant. On own initiative, brought together team of engineers, site environmental staff and business managers to work through the issues and developed a revised plan that resulted in limited capital costs, lower emissions and preserved both the operating permit and financial viability of plant.
- Developed technique of re-asking questions to ensure accurate picture is developed – due to complex nature of chemical plants and regulatory requirements often takes 4-5 times of going through the story before an accurate description of the problem is in place and an optimal solution can be found. Have had to adapt practice to different cultures around the world.

Seeker of Knowledge

- Constantly involved in the learning process as either student or teacher – obtained MBA degree while working as in-house counsel and have taught several classes as adjunct professor at University of Houston.
- Known for tying together seemingly unconnected ideas and facts to explain a problem or devise a solution.
- Participated in EU roundtable of environmental law experts from 7 countries.

Steve Quake

II. Professional Experience -- More Traditional description

LYONDELL CHEMICAL/EQUISTAR CHEMICALS/LYONDELLBASELL INDUSTRIES, LEAD COUNSEL GLOBAL HSE, Houston, Texas: April 1995 to Present

Currently responsible for all aspects of environmental, health and safety regulatory counseling, enforcement defense, indemnity recovery and waste site litigation for over 50 chemical, refining and polymer production facilities in the Americas, Europe and Asia including coordination of in-house team and network of outside counsel in several countries. Active participant in advocacy on environmental policy development at the state and federal level. Successfully concluded settlement with federal and state governments resolving over \$5 billion in environmental claims as part of bankruptcy emergence. Former chair of company-wide ethics and compliance committee. Additional responsibilities have included oversight of political action committee activities, lead in-house attorney on plant divestitures, and managing litigation docket of 40+ cases involving toxic torts, administrative law, product liability and enforcement.

BRACEWELL & PATTERSON, L.L.P., ASSOCIATE, Houston, Texas: July 1994 to April 1995

Environmental regulatory counseling and litigation with particular emphasis in Clean Air Act, hazardous and solid waste regulatory matters and Superfund liability, and cost recovery issues. Specialized expertise in environmental policy development with an emphasis in enforcement defense and air permitting and regulatory matters. Coordination of due diligence efforts for acquisitions.

BAKER & BUTTS, L.L.P., ASSOCIATE, Houston, Texas: November 1989 to July 1994

Member of Environmental Practice Group - Focus on regulatory compliance and administrative enforcement actions on the state and federal level. Strong emphasis on air quality matters with experience in other substantive areas including USTs, solid hazardous waste, EPCRA and criminal defense.

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON LAW CENTER, Adjunct Professor, Houston, TX: 1992-1996, 1999-2000, 2003, 2011, 2017

Courses taught: Clean Air Act - Federal and State, Advanced Clean Air Act Seminar and Environmental Law and Bankruptcy. Frequent guest lecturer.

DORSEY & WHITNEY, Associate, Minneapolis, Minnesota: May 1988 to October 1989

Member of Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Dept. - General environmental practice including state and federal regulatory compliance, CERCLA, USTs, FIFRA and insurance coverage litigation.

AMOCO OIL CO., Summer Research Engineer, Naperville, Illinois: June-August 1984, April-August 1985

Assisted in development of synthetic fuels plant and process for removing sulfur compounds from air emissions.

Education

J. Reuben Clark Law School, Brigham Young University, J.D.: April 1988

Class Rank - Top 3%, Magna Cum Laude
Executive Editor BYU Law Review, 1987-88
Research Assistant - mining & geothermal law, interviewing & counseling

Brigham Young University, Chemical Engineering, B.S.: April 1985

Subjects studied included nuclear engineering, air pollution, synthetic fuels and creativity.

University of Texas at Austin -- Masters of Business Administration, May 1998

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Emmeline Jones *10/12/24*

Professional Associations

State Bar of Texas

Served on the following committees:

- Chair, Legal Committee, AFPM (2015-17)
- Secretary/Treasurer, Corporate Environmental Enforcement Council (CLEEC) 2017
- Founding Director, President, Secretary, BCCA Appeal Group (2000 to present)
- Chair, Oxygenated Fuels Association Litigation Committee (2002-03)
- Manager, MTBE Joint Defense Expert Fund (2001-03)
- Director Houston Bar Association Environmental Law Section (1995-97)
- Vice-chair Texas Title V Steering Committee (1995-98)
- Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission NOx RACT Advisory Committee (1993-94)
- Texas Air Control Board Marketable Permits Advisory Committee (1993-94)
- Texas Air Control Board Enforcement and Penalty Policy Task Force (1992)
- Alternate member of the Houston-Galveston Area Council Regional Air Quality Planning Committee (1991-94)

Contact Information

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